

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended). A flowable edible material mass progressive dispenser comprising in combination:

- a) ~~a spreader having~~ a longitudinally forwardly elongated container for said mass, said container having an end wall,
- b) a nozzle projecting generally forwardly from said end wall, and having a side wall that extends forwardly and terminates at a furthest forward end opening through which said mass is dispensed,
- c) said end opening defining a periphery having a lateral width dimension, and a height dimension that remains substantially the same throughout the lateral width extent of said end opening, said lateral width dimension substantially exceeding twice said height dimension of said end opening, for spreading the mass of material being dispensed, the ~~spreader~~ dispenser having ~~a surface surfaces including arcuate and concave surfaces at widthwise opposite ends of said opening, which remain of fixed dimension,~~ acting to spread said material

being dispensed via the nozzle end opening,

d) said nozzle side wall having an outer surface that is everywhere forwardly convergent toward said end opening periphery to define forward taper as it peripherally and forwardly approaches said nozzle end opening,

e) whereby a substantially constant height layer of said mass is dispensed forwardly through said nozzle end opening as the mass in the container is pressurized, and said layer has the width of said end opening,

f) said forward taper acting to terminally narrow the nozzle and configure it for ease of spreading said dispensed layer.

Claim 2 (original). The combination of claim 1 wherein the spreader surface has the form of a blade or spatula surface attached to the dispenser.

Claim 3 (original). The combination of claim 2 wherein the spreader surface is proximate the nozzle.

Claim 4 (previously presented). The combination of claim 1 wherein the spreader surface has the form of a flap or blade, located at a nozzle outlet from which the material is dispensed, the flap or blade being flexible.

Claim 5 (currently amended). The combination of claim 1 including said dispenser carrying the nozzle, and dispensable edible material inserted in the dispenser to be spread by the ~~spreader~~ spreading surface.

Claim 6 (original). The combination of claim 3 wherein the nozzle is flexible.

Claims 7-15 (cancelled).

Claim 16 (withdrawn). The combination of claim 1 wherein the nozzle comprises an elongated member with an adjustable closure therein and an adjustment member affixed to a nozzle such that the nozzle tends to close when the adjustment member is in a first position and the nozzle tends to open when the adjustment member is in a second position.

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Claims 17-28 (cancelled).

Claim 29 (withdrawn). The spreader of claim 1 wherein the nozzle is in the shape of a knife.

Claim 30 (cancelled).

Claims 31 (withdrawn). The combination of claim 1 comprising

~a container, having a base and a lid opposite the base, the ~~contain~~ container holding a spreadable food item, defined by said mass,

a detachable handle mounted on the container,
a plunger, adapted to engage the detachable handle such that when the detachable handle is depressed, the plunger exerts pressure on the spreadable food item in the container, and

said nozzle, mounted on the exterior of the container proximate to the base of the container, in fluid communication with the interior of the container such that the spreadable food item may be forced through the dispenser nozzle.

Claims 32-44 (cancelled).

Claim 45 (currently amended). The combination of claim 1 wherein the nozzle has attachment to the ~~dispenser~~ container.

Claim 46 (currently amended). The combination of claim 1 wherein the nozzle has threaded attachment to the ~~dispenser~~ container.

Claim 47 (withdrawn). The combination of claim 1 further comprising an abutment member to maintain a single opening slit in an uncollapsed state at all times.

Claim 48 (currently amended). The combination of claim 1 wherein the ~~spreader~~ spreading surface has a serrated edge to engage the dispensed and layered material mass.

Claim 49 (currently amended). The combination of claim 1 or 2 wherein the ~~spreader~~ spreading surface has a serrated edge, to produce a striated surface configuration on dispensed material.

Claim 50 (previously presented). The combination of claim 1 wherein the nozzle has an undulated shape to produce a dispensed flowable material with a wavy texture.

Claim 51 (withdrawn). The combination of claim 2 where the nozzle has an accordian shape which elongates when flowable material is extruded outward.

Claim 52 (previously presented) The combination of claim 1 wherein the nozzle and spreader surface are configured and positioned to maximize the visibility of the material being extruded.

Claim 53 (withdrawn). The combination of claim 1 wherein said nozzle end opening defines a plurality of discrete apertures to permit the flow of material therethrough in generally parallel streams.

Claim 54 (previously presented). The combination of claim 1 wherein the nozzle has an elongated serrated edge at the nozzle outlet.

Claim 55 (currently amended). The combination of claim 54 wherein the ~~spreader~~ dispenser overlies at least part of the nozzle serrated edge.

Claim 56 (withdrawn). The combination of claim 4 including an adjuster on the nozzle to adjust the positioning of the spreader surface flap, relative to the nozzle exit and opening.

Claim 57 (withdrawn). The combination of claim 20 wherein the adjuster has a protrusion that is finger engagable, sidewardly of the nozzle.

Claim 58 (currently amended). ~~The combination of claim 1 wherein the spreader is angled relative to the nozzle end opening so as not to engage the layered spread material as the material is dispensed through the nozzle. A flowable edible material mass progressive dispenser comprising in combination:~~

- a) a longitudinally forwardly elongated container for said mass, said container having an end wall,
- b) a nozzle projecting generally forwardly from said end wall, and having a side wall that extends

forwardly and terminates at a furthest forward end opening through which said mass is dispensed,

c) said end opening defining a periphery having a lateral width dimension, and a height dimension that remains substantially the same throughout the lateral width extent of said end opening, said lateral width dimension substantially exceeding twice said height dimension of said end opening, for spreading the mass of material being dispensed, the dispenser having surfaces including arcuate and concave surfaces at widthwise opposite ends of said opening, which remain of fixed dimension, acting to spread said material being dispensed via the nozzle end opening,

d) said nozzle side wall having an outer surface that is everywhere forwardly convergent toward said end opening periphery to define forward taper as it peripherally and forwardly approaches said nozzle end opening,

e) whereby a substantially constant height layer of said mass is dispensed forwardly through said nozzle end opening as the mass in the container is pressurized, and said layer has the width of said end opening,

f) said forward taper acting to terminally narrow the nozzle and configure it for ease of spreading said dispensed layer,

g) the container and nozzle having a material dispensing position in which the container and nozzle extend directionally forwardly and downwardly and at an acute angle toward and relative to the layer of material being dispensed, there being protective structure carried by and fixedly connected to the dispenser and which extends substantially everywhere above the nozzle and its end opening and faces only forwardly and downwardly relative to the nozzle and its end opening, and also has flexible extent that extends beyond the nozzle end opening to a location in which said structure extends openly protectively over and proximate the layer of material being dispensed, said protective structure having a terminal sufficiently offset from the nozzle end opening by a sufficient distance that a tip defined by the terminal does not engage the tip of the dispensed layer as during dispensing of that layer.

Claim 59 (previously presented). The combination of claim 22 wherein the spreader is angled relative to the nozzle so that a terminal defined by the spreader can engage the layered spread material while the nozzle remains spaced above the level of that material.

Claim 60 (previously presented). The combination of claim 1 wherein the nozzle tapers toward a flexible tip, the spreader having a body of sufficient thickness so as to be manipulable without flexing.

Claim 61 (previously presented). The combination of claim 1 including a cap fitting endwise over the nozzle.

Claim 62 (currently amended). The combination of claim 61 wherein the has an interior configuration to conform to the nozzle and a said nozzle end opening.

Claim 63 (previously presented). The combination of claim 1 wherein the spreader surface has curvature to conform to an edible curved surface.

Claim 64 (withdrawn). The combination of claim 31 wherein the detachable handle is mounted on the container along the exterior of the container generally flush with the exterior of the container.

Claim 65 (withdrawn). The combination of claim 31 wherein the detachable handle is mounted on the container at the lid in engagement with the plunger.

Claim 66 (withdrawn). The combination of claim 31 wherein the dispenser nozzle is in a first upright position, such as for storage.

Claim 67 (withdrawn). The combination of claim 31 wherein the dispenser nozzle is in a second position, generally perpendicular to the container for dispensing the food item.

Claim 68 (withdrawn). The combination of claim 1 including a bag, disposed within the container for holding a food item.

Claim 69 (previously presented). The combination of claim 1 further comprising a cap engaging the exterior of the nozzle.

Claim 70 (previously presented). The combination of claim 69 wherein the cap includes a cavity generally in the shape of the nozzle for receiving the nozzle.

Claim 71 (previously presented). The combination of claim 1 wherein the nozzle has the shape of a spatula.

Claim 72 (currently amended). The combination of claim 1 including said mass layer spread as a wide layer ~~on a wide edible~~.

Claim 73 (currently amended) A flowable edible material mass progressive dispenser comprising:

- a) a spreader having a longitudinally forwardly elongated container for said mass, said container having an end wall,
- b) a nozzle projecting generally forwardly from said end wall, and having a side wall that extends forwardly and terminates at a furthest forward end opening through which said mass is dispensed,

c) said end opening defining a periphery having a lateral width dimension, and a height dimension that remains substantially the same throughout the lateral width extent of said end opening, said lateral width dimension substantially exceeding twice said height dimension of said end opening, for spreading the mass of material being dispensed, the spreader having ~~a surface~~ surfaces including arcuate and concave surfaces at widthwise opposite ends of said opening, which remain of fixed dimension, acting to spread said material being dispensed via the nozzle end opening,

d) said nozzle side wall having a surface that is everywhere forwardly configured toward said end opening periphery to define forward continuity as it peripherally and forwardly approaches said nozzle end opening,

e) whereby a substantially constant height layer of said mass is dispensed forwardly through said nozzle end opening as the mass in the container is pressurized, and said layer has the width of said end opening,

f) said forward continuity acting to smoothly terminate the nozzle and configure it for ease of wide spreading of said dispensed layer in relation to narrowed layer thickness.

Claim 74 (previously presented). The combination of claim 61 wherein the cap has snap ring retention to the nozzle.